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Public meeting on water disinfection process on Thursday

Jan. 8, 2015—The City of Deltona will host a public information meeting on chloramines and the upcoming changes to the water disinfection process we use. The meeting will be at 6 p.m., Jan. 15, in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

Deltona Water has traditionally used chlorine to disinfect Deltona's water. Disinfection kills microbes that can make people sick. In order to meet new federal and state regulations governing water quality under the National Safe Drinking Water Act, the City is changing the way water is disinfected. The City will continue to use chlorine to disinfect water but will also add ammonia to the water to form chloramines as the chlorine residual. This process is called chloramination. Chloramination is basically adding a small amount of ammonia (less than one part per million) to water in the treatment process along with chlorine, thereby forming chloramines, or combined chlorine. In Florida, chloramines are used by at least 30 water utilities including the cities of Tampa, Ft. Myers and the Miami-Dade area. Major U.S. cities such as Denver and Minneapolis have been using chloramines since the 1940s.

Chloramines disinfect water but do not react as readily as chlorine does with naturally occurring organic matter in water sources to form "disinfection byproducts." Chloramines last longer and form less disinfection byproducts. Chloraminated water is safe for drinking, cooking, and other everyday use. Most people in our community will not need to change anything they do now. Chloramines may affect dialysis patients and home aquariums, but only if proper procedures are not implemented to negate these effects.

Medical centers performing dialysis are responsible for preparing the water that enters the dialysis machines. Like City residents, they are being notified of this change and advised to take the chloramines under consideration with their water purification methods.

Kidney dialysis patients can safely drink, cook and bathe in chloraminated water. Chloramines are only harmful if they directly enter the bloodstream. Water purification techniques used for kidney dialysis are already designed to remove both chlorine and chloramines. Residents with questions should contact their physicians or medical center.

Chloramines must be removed from water before it is used in aquariums or ponds. Most pet stores sell water conditioners for chloraminated water. Residents with questions should contact a local pet store for information and detailed instructions.

For additional information, come to the public meeting or visit DeltonaFl.Gov.